



Tech Tip 15-0130-1

Product Affected – Blue Bird BBCV Radiators

- Complaint:** Coolant leak at the radiator.
- Cause:** The main cause was found to be a leak where the tank is crimped to the aluminum core. Figure 1 shows where you can see the “wet” showing on the tank. Figure 2 shows the crimp is becoming un-seated at the joint. Figure 3 shows the crimp to the point where it has actually moved away from the tank. Figure 4 shows an extreme case where the crimp has come right off of the tank.
- This type of failure is called Crevice corrosion and we need to remember we are in the Northeast where salt on the roads is common in winter. The corrosion occurs when a layer of salt spray is dried in place between the Aluminum Header and the Galvanized Crimp retainer. Over time as these layers build up it will actually push the retainer off the header therefore losing the crimping of the gasket to tank joint causing a leak. This only happens on the bottom tank crimp joint as it hangs down between the frame rails and is in the prime path for road spray.
- Correction:** Replace the radiator, or in some instances radiator repair shops can remove the tank, clean and reinstall with a new crimp.
- Prevention –** Good washing of the area and applying the area of the radiator with a good silicone spray
- Please Note –** The manufacturer of the radiator has done extensive research on this issue and determined that buses stored inside actually have a worse problem than those stored outside. They found that because they are in a warm garage overnight, evaporation leaves a thin layer of salt in place and over time this layer builds up causing the radiator leak.

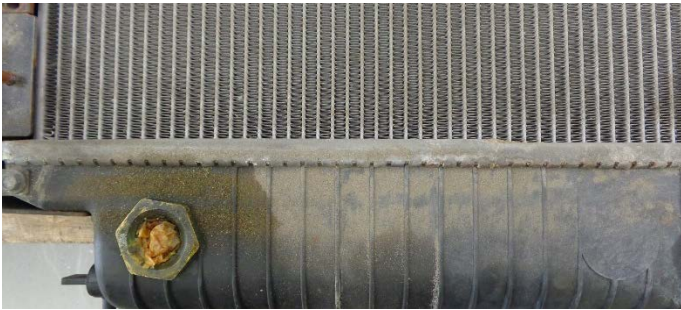


Figure 1



Figure 2

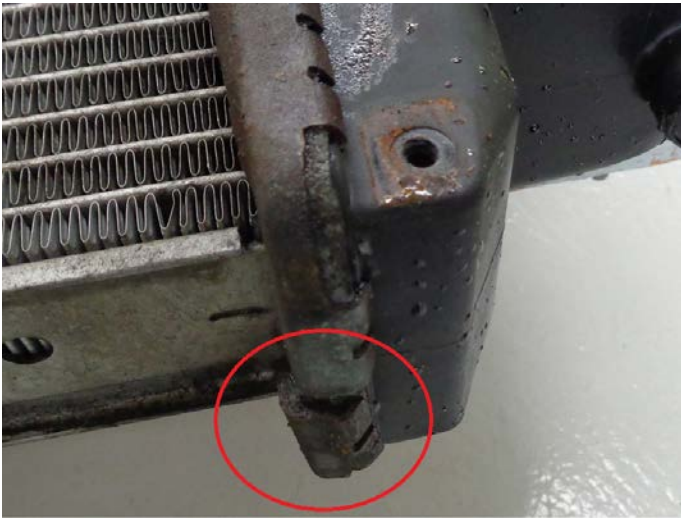


Figure 3



Figure 4

For more information contact our nearest Service Department or Customer Representative

**Chittenango: 315-687-3969 or 1-800-962-5768
Rochester: 585-424-3320 or 1-800-463-3232
Ravena: 518-756-1111 or 1-866-867-1100**

**Daryl Wallace or Brian Lamaitis
Gary Chichester or Dave Schaub
Ben Reiling**

Customer Service Representatives

Eastern Region	Gary Bigness	845-500-3707
Central Region	JJ Richmond	315-559-3999
Western Region	Mike Panzica	716-908-3186